Dublin, October 21. 1863

My dear Friend — I thank you for your very welcome letter. I am always glad to see your handwriting on these tokens of remembrance. I had heard from Miss Estlin of your intention to sail for home some time next month; she told me that she hoped to see you in Bristol, and invited me to meet you there which I would be glad to do, but for a cause of which you will I am sure admit the force. In about a week or a little more my second son Richard (who visited Mrs Chapman in Weymouth some years since on his way home from California & Australia) has decided to try his fortune again in California, and will sail for ~~[illegible]~~ New York as the shortest or at least the cheapest route. My means are not sufficiently large to enable him to begin the world as he would like to do, and with the sanguine spirit of youth he hopes that some ways may open there better than any that seems readily accessible here. He is intelligent,

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well informed, reliable & of irreproachable conduct & character & in these respects has many of the elements of eventual success. He goes out with my approbation all the circumstances considered, & I hope for the best.

Unless something occurs to prevent which I do not at present foresee, I expect to see you in Liverpool before you sail & I would be glad to know what hotel you are likely to go to on your arrival. I wish I could look forward to seeing you in my own home. It was at one time my favorite day dream to have some of the Weston sisters yourself especially as my guests — and my dear Hannah & I often talked over the prospect together. I wished it particularly that she might see more of you & that you might become better acquainted with her than you had had any opportunity of being — for I am quite sure the pleasure would have been mutual. It is a bitter deprivation to lose the companionship of one ~~so eminently~~ gifted with a union of amiable & intellectual endowments to a degree that I have never surpassed in any individuals. Both my girls are good & in many respects like their mother — but still the house feels bleak &

lonely compared with what it was when she was its presiding spirit. How I wish you could have seen her at home. Long before I had any fear of losing her, I used to wonder at my good fortune in being so long allowed the companionship & devoted attachment of a woman to whom I felt myself inferior in all the most estimable qualities.

I read President Lincoln's letter to which you refer with great delight & approbation. Professor Cairnes wrote to me on the occasion that he took great credit to himself in seeing it as he had always a high opinion of the writer from the commencement of his career as President. He thinks him an eminently sagacious, longheaded, practical man.

I have a great part but not the whole of Sumner's speech — for it is an inordinately long one. Whilst my sympathies are with him judging him from his own stand point — I think his fears of English intervention are far greater than they would have been had he stood upon mine. I never feared the actual intervention of England in favor of the South, except at the time of the Trent affair. I did think the English ministry

ministry would intervene if they could - or
that they could if they would - I don't believe
the English people would let them. I believe
both the rulers & the people are sincerely desi-
rous to keep out of war - and that something
must happen that has never yet happened
before the people will go to war to attack the
slaveowners. I also believe that the great
numerical majority of the British people
would rather that the South should be beaten
if the overthrow of slavery be included in
their defeat. I understand very well - but I
can't be surprised that the 999-1000ths of
the people on this side of the Atlantic are
sorely puzzled by the intricacies of your
position - the acts of the democratic party - the
brutality of the Irish mob in New York - the
treatment of colored soldiers & citizens by nor-
thern officers & soldiers &c. &c. &c. They take a
long time to understand and account for &
no wonder people don't know what to think.
As to Beresford Hope, Lord Wharncliffe & Co. they
hate republics & love aristocracies even of
slaveholders & I don't think it remarkable
that with the help of the Times newspaper they
try to get as many adherents as they can

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Last week I was in Edinburgh attending the British Association for the Promotion of Social Science & I made some very interesting and agreeable acquaintances full of zeal for all good things, who gave me a [illegible] and welcome in return for my interest in some of them. This very day week & about this time I ~~attended the~~ was one of the hearers of H. W. Beecher in the most crowded assembly I ever attended. He spoke very ably & effectively amid some interruptions — but the great majority cheered him vehemently & at no point more so than when he uttered the name of Lincoln. It was also the same way at a meeting addressed some days previously by Rev. W. H. Channing. There could be no doubt of it. Beecher was more brutally interrupted in a great meeting at Liverpool — still the majority were with him, though the town is full of men whose ~~cotton~~ is King is cotton & who care for nothing else.

You ask me to visit you in America. Oh that I could! I dont mind the sea — but I have an intense dislike to sea sickness. Perhaps some invention may be discovered for conquering it. It seems to me that we are more tightly bound by circumstances here than you are in America — for such an expedition could not be undertaken by one of my means without great difficulty. Still I would like to try. I would like to see Garrison, Phillips, the Mays, Mrs Chapman & the Weston sisters in their own land.

Some time ago you kindly sent me a carte of your sister Anne which does not recall her to me as I would wish. I now send her in return one of myself which is considered a good likeness. Now that they are such common things have I any chance of seeing yours among those of my many carte-having friends. There is an excellent one of George Thompson which I will send you in exchange for I can readily get another & I know of no other so likely to tempt you — or we shall have Professor Cairnes if you have got George already.

The lines to John Brown March were altered from the somewhat barbarous original by my daughter Deborah & so I hope you will like them.

With kind regards to Mr & Mrs Laugel & Anne Chapman I am ever most truly yours

Richd D Webb

Ms A/1.2 31.95